



# TEXAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12188 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-2188

Phone: (512) 459-6544 Fax: (512) 465-3910

World Wide Web: <http://www.trec.state.tx.us>

## PRESS RELEASE

### TEXAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION SETS MEETING AGENDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ron Servis

Texas Real Estate Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, July 23, 1998

#### Commission to Consider:

- - Proposed rule requiring announcement of prohibition against divulging licensing exam information
- - Mandatory continuing education grace period
- - Legislative Appropriations Request
- - Regulatory rule reviews
- - Discontinuation of 14-page standard inspection report form
- - TREC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative logo

During its next meeting on Monday, July 27, the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) will be considering a proposal requiring real estate education providers to read, at the beginning of each course, a text of the Commission's rule prohibiting disclosure of licensing exam questions. This proposal would be an added safeguard to help ensure real estate course providers do not solicit, or the examinees reveal, specific test related questions and/or answers.

Revealing the contents of real estate licensing test questions is a serious legal violation having implications for both individual licensees, as well as real estate school accreditations. The proposal requiring that the specific rule against disclosure be read is intended to discourage any potential release of information or discussion regarding examination questions between instructors and their students; and to increase awareness of the consequences in the event such violations occur.

On another education related agenda item, Commissioners plan to discuss details of a proposed grace period for completion of mandatory continuing education (MCE) course work. This grace

\*\*\*More\*\*\*

period would allow real estate licensees to renew their licenses without first completing required MCE courses; however, they would be required to pay an additional fee of \$200 and complete their MCE requirement within 60 days of renewal.

Commissioners will be reviewing the agency's proposed Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2000-2001 biennium. An agency request totaling \$3,608,262 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,613,379 for fiscal 2001 is proposed. This compares to an estimated 1998 expenditure of \$3,607,899; and a budgeted amount of \$3,615,742 for 1999. License and other fees authorized for collection by TREC are reviewed annually and adjusted if necessary to produce revenue levels required to fund appropriations.

Other agenda items include the ongoing process of regulatory rule review being implemented by all state agencies to determine whether such provisions remain valid, or if they are in need of revision. Discussion and possible action to readopt may occur on rules pertaining to canons of professional ethics and conduct for real estate licensees. Discussion is also expected concerning rules on practice and procedure, primarily in rulemaking and disciplinary proceedings; as well as on general administrative rules.

Commissioners plan to follow-up on their previous adoption of a simplified standard inspection report form by taking action to initiate the process of repealing the original 14-page form. It has been suggested that the original form be discontinued effective January 1, 1999, giving ample opportunity for a transition to the new five page report. A draft question and answer summary regarding use of the new inspection report form will also be reviewed.

TREC is beginning to make plans for the agency's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A key component of this observance will be development and distribution of a distinctive commemorative design or symbol that expresses the importance and role of TREC throughout the past, present, and future. Employees of the agency were invited to participate in a design competition in which their proposals and ideas were submitted to the Commission for consideration. Sixteen proposals have been received, and Commissioners are expected to announce their selection during the upcoming meeting.

**The Commission meeting will begin at 9:00 AM on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, in Conference Room #235 of the Texas Real Estate Commission Headquarters; 1101 Camino La Costa, in Austin.**

